



Michael V. Drake, MD
President

April 15, 2022

Office of the President
1111 Franklin St.
Oakland, CA 94607

CHANCELLORS

universityofcalifornia.edu

RE: Whole-Campus Support for a Path to Debt Free UC

Dear Colleagues:

CAMPUSES

- Berkeley
- Davis
- Irvine
- UCLA
- Merced
- Riverside
- San Diego
- San Francisco
- Santa Barbara
- Santa Cruz

The University of California has embarked on a renewed path to undergraduate affordability – the Path to Debt Free UC. This comes at a time of extraordinary investments at the federal, State, and University level in new and expanded financial aid programs, including the Board of Regents’ decision to increase the proportion of new tuition revenue set aside for need-based grants.

Our financial aid offices across the system are staffed with extraordinarily committed professionals but making a debt-free pathway for low-income students requires more. It will require collaboration across all our campuses, from career services, student payroll, and student affairs to faculty researchers and academic advising. Some opportunities include:

MEDICAL CENTERS

- Davis
- Irvine
- UCLA
- San Diego
- San Francisco

- **Learning-Aligned Employment Program (LAEP):** The State of California’s new work-study program places an emphasis on high quality jobs for low-income students, as well as a path to gainful employment after graduation. LAEP requires administrative support beyond that which financial aid offices provide to operate the Federal Work Study program. LAEP positions offered on-campus will require a research component and positions with off-campus employers need to align with students’ career objectives. The opportunity to fund these valuable student experiences is important and our financial aid offices will require support from across the campus (e.g., career services, researchers) to make the program a success.

NATIONAL LABORATORIES

- Lawrence Berkeley
- Lawrence Livermore
- Los Alamos

- **Campus Employment for Low-Income Students:** The Path to Debt Free financial aid packages will mean that students could earn enough in part-time employment to cover the “self-help” portion of their education, but only if they can find good-paying jobs. This creates an opportunity for departments across the campus to ensure that they emphasize student employment opportunities for work-study and other financially needy students.

DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

- **Support for California Dreamers:** As fewer and fewer of UC’s undocumented students qualify for the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), new opportunities need to be cultivated to support them that do not require work authorization. Several academic programs have been developed across the system that come with fellowship/scholarship support. The Office of the

President can provide advice in establishing such a program, as well as provide you with examples in operation now. For the campuses that are participating in Californians for All, volunteer opportunities for UC students can take the place of employment.

- **Academic and Social Support:** Low-income and first-generation students require more than financial support to thrive on our campuses. They will need advice on coordinating their academic plans with any potential employment and a community to support them.

The University of California has a long, proud history of providing access to an affordable education for California students. We have an opportunity to provide even more robust support to students, but it will take a coordinated effort across each campus and across the system as a whole. I appreciate all your efforts as we renew UC's commitment to success for all our students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael V. Drake" with a stylized flourish at the end.

Michael V. Drake, MD
President

cc: Provost and Executive Vice President Brown
Vice President/Vice Provost Gullatt
Executive Vice Chancellors/Provosts
Executive Director Brick